

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please insert the following new Abstract presented on a separate sheet attached to this response.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A catalyst composition and its use for the oxidation of ethane to ethylene and acetic acid which comprises (i) a support, and (ii) in combination with oxygen, the elements molybdenum, vanadium and niobium, optionally tungsten and a component Z, which is one or more metals of Group 14 of the Periodic Table of Elements; a, b, c, d and e represent the gram atom ratios of the elements Mo, W, Z, V and Nb respectively, such that  $0 < a \leq 1$ ;  $0 \leq b < 1$  and  $a + b = 1$ ;  $0.05 < c \leq 2$ ;  $0 < d \leq 2$ ; and  $0 < e \leq 1$ .